United States Olympic Committee: Our Mission

To support U.S. Olympic and Paralympic athletes in achieving sustained competitive excellence while demonstrating the values of the Olympic Movement, thereby inspiring all Americans.
U.S. Paralympics: Our Vision

U.S. Paralympics is dedicated to becoming the world leader in the Paralympic Movement and promoting excellence in the lives of people with physical, visual and intellectual impairments.
Paralympic Sports

https://www.teamusa.org/us-paralympics/sports
Summer Paralympic Sports

Badminton and Taekwondo were added for Tokyo 2020
Winter Paralympic Sports

- Alpine Skiing
- Nordic Skiing
- Sled Hockey
- Snowboarding
- Wheelchair Curling
Paralympic Sports Managed by U.S. Paralympics
Paralympic Eligible Impairments


Photo credit Angel City Sports / Tiffany J Photography
Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra-or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.

**Summer Sports**
- Archery
- **Badminton**
- Wheelchair Basketball
- Boccia
- Paracanoe
- Equestrian
- Wheelchair Fencing
- Paratriathlon
- Powerlifting

**Winter Sports**
- Alpine Skiing
- Nordic Skiing (Biathlon and Cross-country)
- Wheelchair Curling
- Sled Hockey
- Snowboard

**Winter Sports**
- Rowing
- Wheelchair Rugby
- Shooting
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Wheelchair Tennis
- Track and Field
- Volleyball
Impaired Passive Range of Motion

Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include throgryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilization or trauma affecting a joint.

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- Nordic Skiing (Biathlon and Cross-country)
- Wheelchair Curling
- Sled Hockey
- Snowboard
Ataxia, Athetosis and Hypertonia

**Ataxia**
Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.

*Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.*

**Athetosis**
Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.

*Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.*

**Hypertonia**
Athletes with Hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.

*Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.*
Ataxia, Athetosis and Hypertonia

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Rowing
Wheelchair Rugby
Shooting
Swimming
Table Tennis
Wheelchair Tennis
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Volleyball
Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (for example traumatic amputation), illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).

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- Powerlifting

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- Nordic Skiing (Biathlon and Cross-country)
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- Sled Hockey
- Snowboard
Athletes with Leg Length Difference have a difference in the length of their legs as a result of a disturbance of limb growth, or as a result of trauma.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer Sports</th>
<th>Winter Sports</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Archery</td>
<td>• Alpine Skiing</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Taekwondo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Taekwondo</td>
<td>• Wheelchair Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Track and Field</td>
<td>• Wheelchair Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Volleyball</td>
<td>• Track and Field</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Athletes with Short Stature will have a reduced length in the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs an/or trunk.

*Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Short Stature include achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta.*

**Summer Sports**
- Badminton
- Equestrian
- Powerlifting
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Wheelchair Tennis
- Track and Field
Athletes with Vision Impairment have reduced or no vision caused by damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain.

*Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Vision Impairment include retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.*

**Summer Sports**
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Goalball
- Judo
- Paratriathlon
- Rowing
- Swimming
- Track and Field

**Winter Sports**
- Alpine Skiing
- Nordic Skiing (Biathlon and Cross-country)
Athletes with an intellectual Impairment have a restriction in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior in which affects conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills required for everyday life. This Impairment must be present before the age of 18.

Summer Sports
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Track and Field
The Paralympic classification system was created to organize competition among athletes with physical, intellectual and visual impairments. To ensure fair competition, an athlete's type and degree of activity limitation determine his or her assignment to a specific "sport class."

Each sport class is intended to group athletes with similar functional limitations—so, for example, amputee athletes compete separately from blind athletes. The classification system provides a structure for competition—similar to grouping able-bodied athletes by age, gender or weight. The goal is to minimize the impact of impairments on sport performance.

Each sport has its own classification system because an impairment affects an athlete's ability to perform differently across the sports. For example, an arm amputation will affect an archer differently than a swimmer. As a consequence, an athlete may meet the criteria to compete in one sport but not another. Not every sport is offered for athletes of every impairment type.
Paralympic Sport Development: Staff

Paul Ackerman
Director, Paralympic Sport Development

John Register
Associate Director, Paralympic Sport Development

Calli Doggett
Manager, Paralympic Sport Development
Paralympic Sport Development: Focus

Focused on connecting athletes to sport development pathways.
Our Strategy: Gateway to Gold

Gateway to Gold aligns the core elements of awareness & communication, grassroots programs, athlete identification and high performance programs to define athlete development pathways for all Paralympic sports.
Athlete Development Pathway

- Awareness & Communication
- Grassroot Programming
- Athlete Identification
- High Performance Programs
Paralympic Sport Development: Athlete Development Equation

Population + Capacity = Athlete

Population:
- Amputee Coalition
- Cerebral Palsy Foundation
- United Spinal Association
- Dwarf Athletic Association
- American Foundation for the Blind
- Gateway to Gold App
- Athlete Questionnaire
- Gateway to Gold Events
- Other Organizations and Events

Capacity:
- Paralympic Sport Clubs
- NCAA/Member Institutions
- NFHS/Member Schools
- Disabled Sport Organizations

Prospect Athletes for:
- Cycling
- Paratriathlon
- Swimming
- Track and Field
Gateway to Gold Mobile App

The Gateway to Gold app allows Paralympic hopefuls to watch sport demonstration videos, test their skills and then submit their own videos directly to U.S. Paralympics coaches. Athletes will receive follow-up steps that may include connections to local training programs, coaching, competition or other performance opportunities.
Athlete Questionnaire

Allows for additional information on Paralympic Eligible Athletes. When submitting, sport interest, sport engagement, and competition results may be submitted.
Gateway to Gold Events

As a part of the Gateway to Gold program, U.S. Paralympics and its community partners, including National Governing Bodies, Paralympic Sport Clubs and veteran organizations are hosting free introduction to sport and talent identification events across the country. The target population for the program is Paralympic-eligible (classifiable) athletes with a physical, visual or intellectual impairment. Events are open to individuals of all ages who have a Paralympic-eligible impairment, although some events may be invitation-only.
Paralympic Sport Development: Athlete Development Equation

**Population**
- Amputee Coalition
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- Paralympic Sport Clubs
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- NFHS/Member Schools
- Disabled Sport Organizations

**Athlete**
- Prospect Athletes for:
  - Cycling
  - Paratriathlon
  - Swimming
  - Track and Field

Population + Capacity = Athlete
Paralympic Sport Clubs

U.S. Paralympics is partnering with community organizations from across the country to create a network of Paralympic Sport Clubs that provide local sport programming for individuals with Paralympic-eligible impairments, including physical disabilities and visual impairments. While many Paralympic Sport Clubs focus on grassroots programming, many also provide opportunities at the national and international levels.
Paralympic Sport Clubs

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Top States with Paralympic Sport Clubs

Texas  California  Colorado  Illinois  Washington
Overview of Team USA for the 2016 Paralympic Games
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona State University</td>
<td>Hartwick College</td>
<td>Pomona-Pitzer</td>
<td>University of Hartford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azusa Pacific University</td>
<td>Idaho State University</td>
<td>Queens College-NY</td>
<td>University of Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boise State University</td>
<td>Indiana State University</td>
<td>Rutgers University</td>
<td>University of Indianapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryn Mawr College</td>
<td>James Madison University</td>
<td>Sacred Heart University</td>
<td>University of Maryland-College Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>California Lutheran University</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College</td>
<td>San Jose State University</td>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
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<tr>
<td>California Polytechnic State University</td>
<td>Lake Erie College</td>
<td>Southern Virginia University</td>
<td>University of Missouri</td>
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<tr>
<td>California State University-Dominguez Hills</td>
<td>Lehigh University</td>
<td>Southwest Minnesota State University</td>
<td>University of Montana</td>
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<td>California State University-Chico</td>
<td>Louisiana Tech University</td>
<td>St. Andrews University</td>
<td>University of Mount Union</td>
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<td>Carson-Newman University</td>
<td>Loyola University - Maryland</td>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>University of Nebraska-Omaha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedarville University</td>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
<td>Tennessee State University</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell University</td>
<td>Millsaps College</td>
<td>The City College of New York</td>
<td>University of Puerto Rico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edinboro University</td>
<td>Morehouse College</td>
<td>United States Military Academy</td>
<td>University of Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University</td>
<td>New York University</td>
<td>United States Naval Academy</td>
<td>University of Texas-Arlington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairfield University</td>
<td>Norfolk State University</td>
<td>University of Alabama</td>
<td>University of Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin and Marshall College</td>
<td>Northwood University-Midland</td>
<td>University of Arizona</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends University</td>
<td>Oklahoma Christian University</td>
<td>University of California-San Diego</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Whitewater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardner-Webb University</td>
<td>Oklahoma Panhandle State</td>
<td>University of Central Florida</td>
<td>Weber State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgetown University</td>
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<td>University of Denver</td>
<td>Wichita State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Valley State University</td>
<td>Pasadena City College</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
<td>Wright State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Penn State University</td>
<td>University of Georgia</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Top Schools Represented in Rio

University of Illinois
University of Arizona
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
University of Alabama
University of Texas-Arlington
Number of Athletes Represented by these Institutions

- University of Illinois
- University of Arizona
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
- University of Alabama
- University of Texas-Arlington

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# Top Sports Represented by these Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track and Field</th>
<th>Wheelchair Basketball</th>
<th>Swimming</th>
<th>Cycling</th>
<th>Soccer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Top Sports Represented by these Institutions

Track and Field  Wheelchair Basketball  Swimming  Cycling  Soccer
Para Swimming Pilot Program

- College Swim Invitationals
  - University of California – San Diego
  - Calvin College
  - Franklin and Marshall
- Conference Championships
  - 2018 ECAC Championship
  - 2018 Ohio Athletic Conference Championship

2017 Collegiate Para Sport Summit

- Engaging key collegiate program stakeholders to map the next steps in collegiate programs
Paralympic Sport Development: Athlete Development Equation

Population + Capacity = Athlete

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- Other Events

Capacity:
- Paralympic Sport Clubs
- NCAA/Member Institutions
- NFHS/Member Schools
- Disabled Sport Organizations
- Other Events

Prospect Athletes for:
- Cycling
- Paratriathlon
- Swimming
- Track and Field
Prospect Profiles

**Track and Field**
men/women, ages 14 – 30, vision impairment, cerebral palsy, experience/participating in a program (high school level or beyond)

**Swimming**
men/women, high school age or older, all eligible impairments, currently in a regular training program (6x per week)

**Cycling**
men/women, ages 18 – 35, spinal cord injury, leg amputees, athletic experience (not necessarily cycling experience)

**Paratriathlon**
men/women, any age, arm/leg amputees, prior experience in one of the component sports
Paralympic Sport Development: Development Cycle

- Profile Development
- Placement
- Outreach
- Performance
Gateway to Gold Webpage
www.teamusa.org/us-paralympics/gateway-to-gold/
Events Listing

www.teamusa.org/us-paralympics/gateway-to-gold/events/

Photo credit Angel City Sports / Tiffany J Photography
Coaches Corner

www.teamusa.org/us-paralympics/gateway-to-gold/coaches-corner/
Los Angeles 2028
Discussion and Questions

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